

Town of Garner Budget in Brief



Town Council Approves Annual Operating Budget for FY 2015-16

ON JUNE 16, 2015, the Garner Town Council adopted a \$28,467,600 annual operating budget for FY 2015-16. This is an increase of \$1,868,921 (7.3%) over FY 2014-15. Important changes included in this year's budget include a 1.75-cent property tax increase to be used for the current and future debt associated with the general obligation bonds overwhelmingly approved by Garner voters in March 2013.

The property tax increase changes the municipal property tax rate from 50 cents to 51.75 cents per \$100 of assessed value. This fiscal year's 1.75-cent property tax increase, in conjunction with last fiscal year's one-cent increase, completes the increases required for the Garner Bond Program. This 2.75 cents will be dedicated to pay the principal and interest of the bond program throughout the life of the debt service. The increase is expected to add \$31.85 to the Town's levy of the average Garner homeowner's property tax bill.

The adopted budget allows for increases to the services that are experiencing the highest level of demand and growth, providing direct tangible benefits to Garner residents in the areas of infrastructure investment, economic development, town planning and public safety.

FY 2015-16 Initiatives and Investments

Street Resurfacing Program – The Town is undertaking what will be the first year of an annual commitment to directly invest in the improvement of the Town's transportation infrastructure.

Garner Police Station – Construction of the new police station is expected to be complete in October 2015. We'll be announcing details about a public ribbon cutting and open house event.

Garner Park Enhancements – Park enhancements approved by voters in the 2013 bond referendum have begun, with many projects already completed. FY 2014-15 saw the acquisition of a new mobile stage, the opening of North Garner Dog Park, the construction of dugout covers at five different Town ball fields and installation of fencing at South Garner Park. FY 2015-16 will bring the completion of new concession and restroom facilities at South Garner Park and Garner Recreational Park. This fiscal year will also see the start of construction on Garner's second dog park at Lake Benson Park.

New Town Hall and Indoor Recreation Center Construction

– The 2013 voter-approved bond referendums also included funding for a new Town Hall at 900 7th Ave. and an Indoor Recreation Center at the corner of Main and Montague streets in historic downtown Garner. Construction of both projects will commence this fiscal

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Garner: A Great Value

This fiscal year's 1.75-cent property tax increase, combined with last fiscal year's 1-cent rise, completes the increases needed to support the \$35.7 million Garner Bond Program, which voters overwhelmingly supported in a March 2013 election. The first chart below shows the impact of the 1.75-cent tax hike on a range of property valuations.

The second chart illustrates Garner's cost competitiveness in the area of municipal services compared to other municipalities in Wake County.

Impact of 1.75-Cent Property Tax Increase on Homeowners

Property Value	Cost per Year
\$100,000	\$17.50
\$150,000	\$26.25
\$181,982*	\$31.85
\$200,000	\$35.00
\$250,000	\$43.75
\$500,000	\$87.50

* Average single-family-home valuation in Garner, according to Wake County Revenue Department.

Total Annual Customer Costs for Municipal Services as of FY 2015-16

Zebulon	\$2,424.09
Wendell	\$2,037.11
Knightdale	\$1,884.48
Holly Springs	\$1,706.96
Rolesville	\$1,694.25
Raleigh	\$1,613.62
Fuquay-Varina	\$1,579.65
Wake Forest	\$1,575.84
Cary	\$1,548.93
Apex	\$1,539.09
Garner	\$1,532.29
Morrisville	\$1,454.69

Chart assumes total annual cost for residents based on property tax rate on a single-family residential unit valued at \$181,982, an annual water/sewer usage of 3,740 gallons and includes all other applicable trash and stormwater fees.

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Initiatives

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year, with the demolition process for the new Town Hall requiring departments, services and Town employees to relocate to one of three different sites. More information can be found at garnernc.gov or garnerbonds.com.

Vehicle and Equipment Replacement – The Town has continued the process of assessing, prioritizing and replacing the aging vehicles and equipment vital to accomplishing Town business and projects.

Garner Comprehensive Growth and Transportation Plan Updates

– The FY 2015-16 budget includes funding for the first half of what will be a two-fiscal-year process of updating the Town's Comprehensive Growth and Transportation plans. The Comprehensive Growth Plan is a long-range planning document that sets the Town's vision for land use and community image, while the Transportation Plan will identify and recommend both short- and long-range actionable items to improve the safety and efficiency of travel options to, from and through Garner.

General Fund Revenues

Property tax	\$16,186,000	56.9%
Sales tax and intergovernmental	\$8,746,959	30.7%
Permits/fees	\$1,596,310	5.6%
Other	\$1,938,331	6.8%
Total	\$28,467,600	100%



General Fund Expenditures

Public safety	\$11,002,466	38.6%
General government	\$7,137,376	25.1%
Cultural and recreational	\$2,870,492	10.1%
Debt service	\$2,795,422	9.8%
Transportation	\$2,616,174	9.2%
Environmental protection	\$1,879,965	6.6%
Transfers	\$165,705	0.6%
Total	\$28,467,600	100%



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